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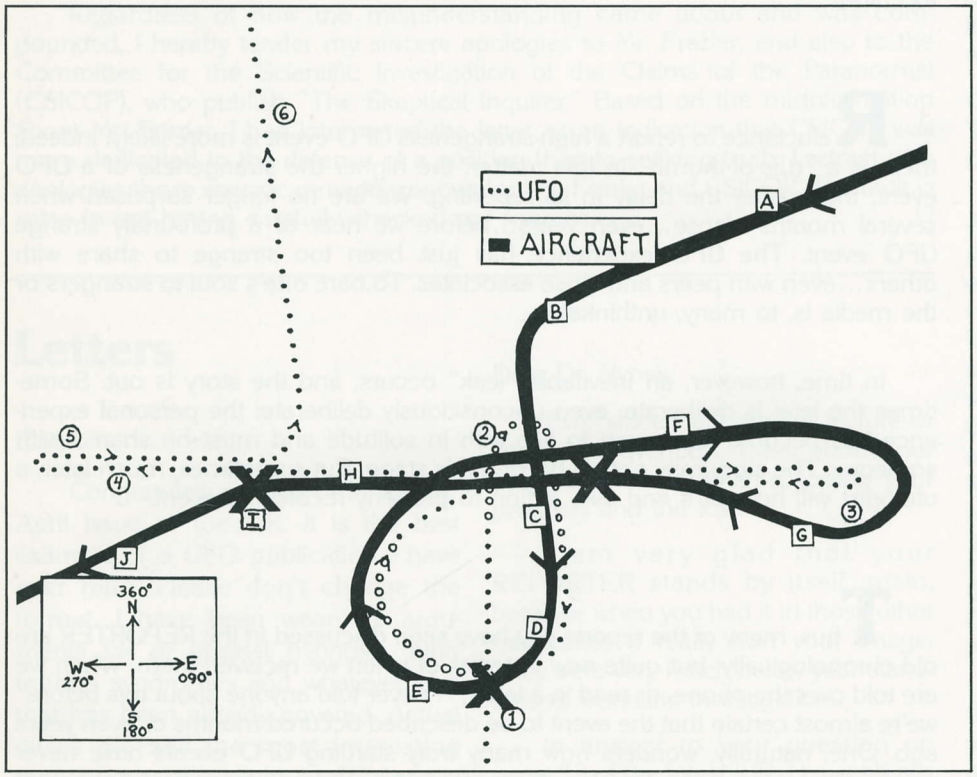

An Incredible Close Encounter

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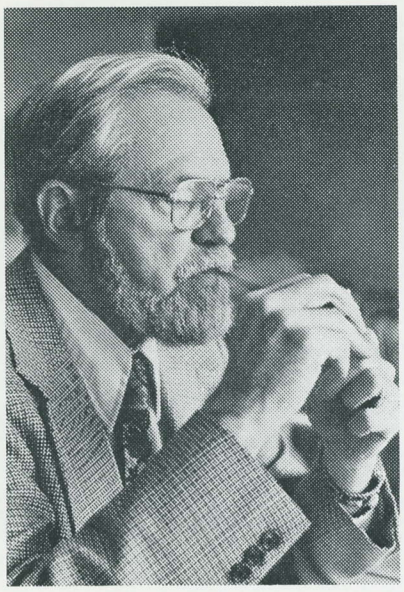

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EDITORIAL

"High Strangeness"

In this issue you will find some very, very "high strangeness" Close Encounter cases for your perusal, as well as articles of interest for your information and entertainment. The UFO events described continue literally to shake the foundations of our belief systems. "Things like this just can't be" we are very apt to say, yet the alternative is to impugn the sanity, honesty, and credibility of the witnesses to the events. For this there is no justification in view of their reputations, standing in their communities, and in some cases, their technical training. By now, over the years, the aggregate of such witnesses, from all over the world, is stupendous. If they are all insane, humanity is in very bad shape.

The UFO accounts herein, very disturbing to the conservative mind, have been investigated to the extent that the facilities and funds of the Center for UFO Studies permit. They are indeed "Alice-in-Wonderland" in nature, but to ascribe them to simple "misperception" just won't wash. Nor will the concept that such bizarre reports have been fabricated to gain publicity for people with otherwise dull, drab lives. In many cases, the lives in question are far from drab. It has been our experience that the more sophisticated the witnesses, the greater their dread of publicity; they know only too well the gauntlet of ridicule and even derision they almost certainly would have to run. There is simply no point to manufacturing high-strangeness UFO stories; the cost in reputation and peace of mind is just too high.

Reluctance to report a high-strangeness UFO event is more likely. Indeed, there is a "rule-of-thumb" in this matter: the higher the strangeness of a UFO event, the greater the delay in its reporting. We are no longer surprised when several months elapse...even years...before we hear of a profoundly strange UFO event. The UFO experience has just been too strange to share with others...even with peers and close associates. To bare one's soul to strangers or the media is, to many, unthinkable.

In time, however, an inevitable "leak" occurs, and the story is out. Sometimes the leak is deliberate, even unconsciously deliberate; the personal experience has become too much to live with in solitude and must be shared with someone. The story may not go beyond this stage. But sometimes, much later, a ufologist will hear of it and take action to properly record the event.

Thus, many of the reports you have seen discussed in the REPORTER are old chronologically, but quite new in terms of when we received them. When we are told over the phone, or read in a letter, "I never told anyone about this before" we're almost certain that the event to be described occured months or even years ago. One, naturally, wonders how many truly startling UFO events have never reached the eyes and ears of serious ufologists. Judging from the number of people who have told us something like, "Of course I didn't report it...I didn't want people to think I was nuts," it may be a great many. Unfortunately, UFO events of great strangeness, are just the ones that should not be lost to ufology; they may hold clues to the eventual solution of this great mystery.

An Editorial Apology

In the November/December issue of this publication, the editorial, "NOVA AND UFOS," I inveighed against the biased and uninformed treatment the UFO subject was given on the NOVA program of Oct. 12, 1982. Everything I said about the NOVA program still stands, and in full force. However, in the editorial I apparently incorrectly stated (based on information from Walt Andrus, Director of MUFON) that Kendrick Frazier, editor of "THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER," had a major hand in the selection of the program participants.

Mr. Frazier has informed me in a letter that he had little to do with the NOVA program. He was asked by Mr. Groom, the program producer, to suggest persons who might contribute to the program. He gave Groom the names of five persons and two of his suggestions appeared in the program.

Apparently, much has suffered in translation, so to speak, and in transmission. Walt Andrus tells me that, in his phone conversation with a staff member of the NOVA program, he was led to believe that Frazier was the key figure in the selection of participants.

I have no reason to doubt the word of either Mr. Frazier or of Mr. Andrus, but it is evident that somehow a major misunderstanding arose from a small kernel of truth: Mr. Frazier had been consulted.

Regardless of how the misunderstanding came about and was compounded, I hereby tender my sincere apologies to Mr. Frazier, and also to the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), who publish "The Skeptical Inquirer." Based on the misinformation about Mr. Frazier, I had interpreted the latter as an indication that CSICOP was more dedicated to the defense of a position than to seeking truth. I retract with apologies those specific remarks concerning Mr. Frazier and CSICOP. The fault is mine in not having carefully checked my sources. □

Letters

Editor:

Congratulations upon the March/April issue of the IUR. It is the best example of a UFO publication I have ever read. Please don't change the format. I have been weary of arguments for or against hypnosis, birth trauma syndromes and whatever else that has been already covered. Actual cases are still the most interesting topic, especially when professionally investigated.

Richard Seifried
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Ever since I attended a lecture of yours in Davenport, Iowa, about four years ago, I have been following your progress and the IUR.

I am very glad that your REPORTER stands by itself again, because when you had it in those other magazines it really hurt your image. They were very much below your standards of scientific investigation.

In answer to your question on page #3 of the latest IUR, I have always wanted the IUR to be more current than 4 to 5 months behind events. I would suggest up-to-date accounts of

(Continued on Pg. 15, Col. 2)

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EXTRATERRES—TRIAL SCIENCE

SIXTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF UFOLOGY

These were the titles of the meetings held in Rosario, Argentina on Dec. 8-12, 1982. They were well attended, with representatives from Spain, Brazil, Uraguay, Paraguay, United States and, of course, many from Argentina, the host country. They were extremely well organized with the presentation of papers, panel discussions, and social activities filling all the days of the Congress.

It would be impossible to do justice to the many papers presented during these several days in the space available here. Here is just a very brief summary of those papers we judged to hold the most interest to our readers. Our apologies to those authors not included in this necessarily abbreviated review.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND IN ARGENTINA:
Oscar Alemanno

A statistical analysis of CE-IIIs in Argentina which, with the recently compiled and extensively coded data bank of Argentinian Close Encounter cases over the past three decades by Guilermo Roncoroni of Buenos Aires, should be of considerable value for serious research ufologists. A copy of the Alemanno paper is not yet available to us for detailed study but the Roncoroni catalogue is, and will be reviewed in the next issue of this Journal.

ON THE POSSIBLE NATURE OF THE UFO PHENOMENON:
Antonio Ribera

Presented in the inimitable style of this well-known Spanish ufologist, sometimes a bit uncritical but always colorful, this paper was of considerable interest, as it mentioned some cases not well known in the United States, as, for instance, the abduction of the

(Continued on Pg. 7, Col. 1)

An Incredible Close Encounter from

by Mark R. Remaley

[Ed. note: As our editorial in this issue warned, here is one of the truly weird and baffling UFO reports. Had there not been two mature witnesses involved, flying their own plane, in clear, calm daytime sky, and had I (JAH) not interviewed both witnesses by phone, I would not have referred this case to Mr. Remaley (himself a pilot and a sky diver) for further study. Presented here are the results of his personal interview with Mr. Michael Davis (25), the pilot of the plane, and with his father (52), the co-pilot, by phone. The editing has been minimal.]

TYPE: CE-I (II)
DATE: Oct. 24, 1982
TIME: 9:20 A.M.
DURATION: 10 minutes
WITNESSES: 2 (Father and son, student pilot and pilot, respectively)
PLACE: Approx. 10 miles south and east of Lowell, Ind., observed from a private plane, approx. 3000 ft. MSL.

I met with Michael Davis in early January, 1983. He proved to be articulate, intelligent, and a not very excitable person, yet genuinely puzzled by his experience. Judging from his careful responses and the manner in which he had recorded all the movements of his aircraft relative to the UFO, I give his story high marks for credibility. My sole reservations, apart from some relatively minor contradictions under questioning, come from my wonder at his ability to keep such excellent records during a flight which resembles a WW-II dogfight.

I dismiss the possibility of a hoax because of absence of any discernible motive for publicity and because nothing during the course of the interviews suggested such a possibility. They came across as highly credible witnesses to a very remarkable event.

Michael Davis, the aircraft pilot (250 hours flying time) and his father (a student pilot) were returning to the Lowell, Ind. airport after flying to the Porter County airport to practice navigation and landings. After some "touch and go" landings, they left on their return leg, flying a 1968 Cherokee 140 single-engine, low-wing aircraft. The weather was exceptionally clear, visibility unlimited, with no clouds and no turbulence. Both witnesses remarked on how exceptionally calm their flight was.

Approximately 4 to 5 minutes after takeoff, and just after reaching their cruise altitude of 3,000 feet MSL (2,300 feet above ground level), on a course of 240 magnetic, doing 120 knots, the pilot (Michael) noticed (see map) an object that at first he took to be a malfunctioning parachute, due not only to its shape but because he had learned the previous day that the Valparaiso, Ind. University Skydiving Team was going to be making practice jumps that morning. He then remembered, however, that when he had seen the jump plane take off it had headed due east while the object now in view was to the west of his plane which itself was considerably west of the Porter airport.

The object first appeared in his 10 o'clock position sufficiently enough below their level to be silhouetted against the ground. After viewing it for about 20 seconds he began to note its unusual configuration. He described it as having a "bee's-head shape." Noting that the object would pass beneath him, where it would be out of sight due to the plane's low-wing design, he initiated a steep (45°) left-hand turn, (B) applying power and climbing to 3,500 ft. MSL to give a safe 1,000 feet vertical clearance. Immediately before this turn, the UFO appeared to be on a bearing of 355 magnetic (1 UFO Course) (almost due north) and at a

KEY TO MAP POSITIONS

A: Pilot and co-pilot watch UFO (position 1) approach to within ½ mile. The plane was at 3,000 feet, the UFO at 2,400 feet.

B: The plane takes a 45-degree bank to the left, climbing to 3,500 feet. The UFO passes the plane on the right side and beneath it (position 2).

C: After losing sight of the UFO, the pilot sees it again to the left and 45-degrees behind the plane.

E: The pilot makes a slow right turn, descending to 1,800 feet, as the UFO drops behind out of sight. Turbulence is felt as the plane passes through the UFO's flight path.

F: Leveling out of the turn, the co-pilot spots the UFO 45-degrees behind on the right, only 50 yards away.

G: As the plane makes a slow bank to the right, the UFO (position 3) suddenly reverses course. The pilot pulls in behind the UFO to chase it.

H: Following the UFO's path (position 4), the plane hits turbulence. The UFO was now about 5 miles ahead of the plane.

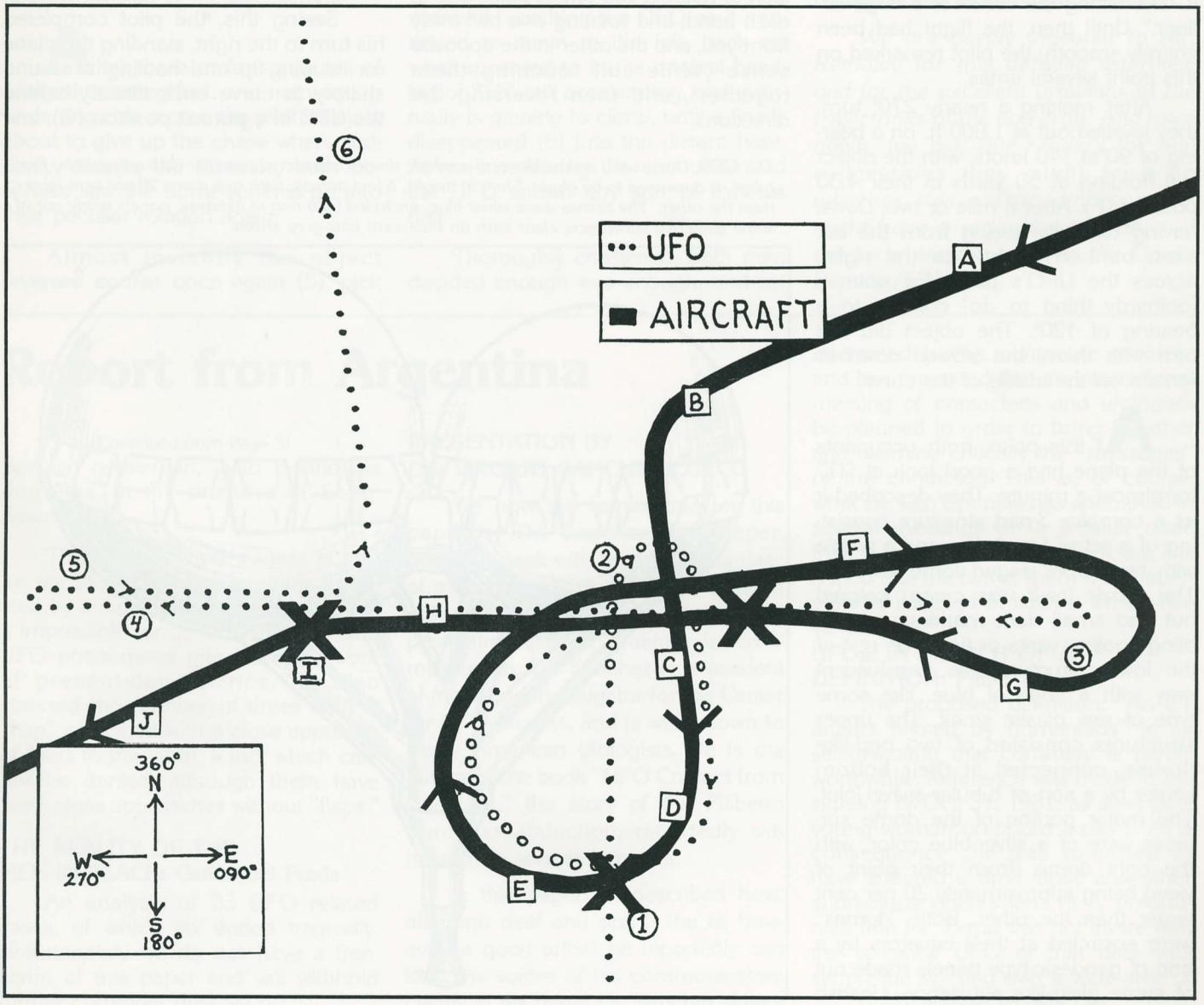
I: Again the UFO suddenly reverses direction (position 5), aiming directly at plane and closing the distance within 15 seconds. At the last instant the UFO veered to the left, missing the plane's wingtip by only 10 feet.

J: As the UFO climbed out of sight (position 6), the plane resumed its course.

Credible Pilots

height of approximately 2,400 MSL and doing 120 KIAS. Davis had made his turn so as to come out of it on a near-reciprocal bearing of 170° (C) with the object to pass below them and on their right side (1, 2, 3) within easy viewing by the co-pilot, Everett Davis, who watched it go under the wing and disappear behind them. Michael, planning to turn and pursue, looked around for the target and was startled, to say the least, to find it just 10 seconds later only 50 yards behind them (2) (rear left at 45°, their 7:30 position) holding their course and speed. *(NOTE: If these times are correct, this indicates a climb speed of 6,000 feet per minute, or 100 feet per second, virtually impossible for any propeller-driven aircraft, with the possible exception of a distinctive Cobra-class helicopter. A jet like the F-16 or F-18 could do it but; a) could not have been flying at 120 knots in the first place, since it lands at a higher speed than that, and b) even if it could have made a full throttle turn to their level that rapidly, it would have been impossible for it to have slowed down again to their speed without overshooting them at a much higher rate. Two pilot friends, both very experienced had the same objections. One had suggested the Cobra as a remote possibility but the other said; "No f... way, you'd tear the rotors off!" As for the testing of a new flaps/spoiler system by the Air Force, I believe Arizona or Utah would be a more reasonable locale for this than near Gary, Ind.).*

At this point, after a brief exchange of words with his co-pilot, Davis began a slow turn to the right, (D) away from the object, and initiated



Incredible Encounter — continued

a gradual descent from 3,500 to 1,800 feet. Immediately thereafter, he lost sight of the UFO, but as he continued the turn, the co-pilot picked it up again. It was still matching their movements and was still only 50 yards away, but it had crossed over to the inside of their turn, appearing now on their right quarter (E) (their 4:30 position), and holding steady with them.

As they descended through the object's original flight path, (X-1) they encountered about two seconds of heavy turbulence; the pilot described it "like hitting the vortex of a large airliner." Until then, the flight had been entirely smooth; the pilot remarked on this point several times.

After making a nearly 270° turn, they levelled out at 1,800 ft. on a bearing of 90°at 140 knots, with the object still holding at 50 yards at their 4:30 position (F). After a mile or two, Davis, having difficulty seeing from the left seat, banked slightly to the right, across the UFO's path [Ed note: a foolhardy thing to do] coming to a bearing of 120°. The object did not turn with them, but slowed down to remain on the inside of the curve.

At this point, both occupants of the plane had a good look at "IT" for almost a minute. They described it as a complex 3-part structure consisting of a set of four tubes and a nozzle with two upper ringed-dome sections. The nozzle itself was cream colored but had small dark markings resembling cooling vents or fins. The rest of the lower structure was transluscent grey with a tinge of blue, like some type of raw plastic stock. The upper structures consisted of two pod-like domes, connected at their bottom center by a sort of tubular swivel-joint. The major portion of the dome surfaces were of a silver-blue color, with the right dome (from their point of view) being approximately 20 per cent larger than the other. Both "domes" were encircled at their equators by a ring of geodesic-type panels made out of some glass-like substance, clearish but with an almost iridescent blue-grey sheen.

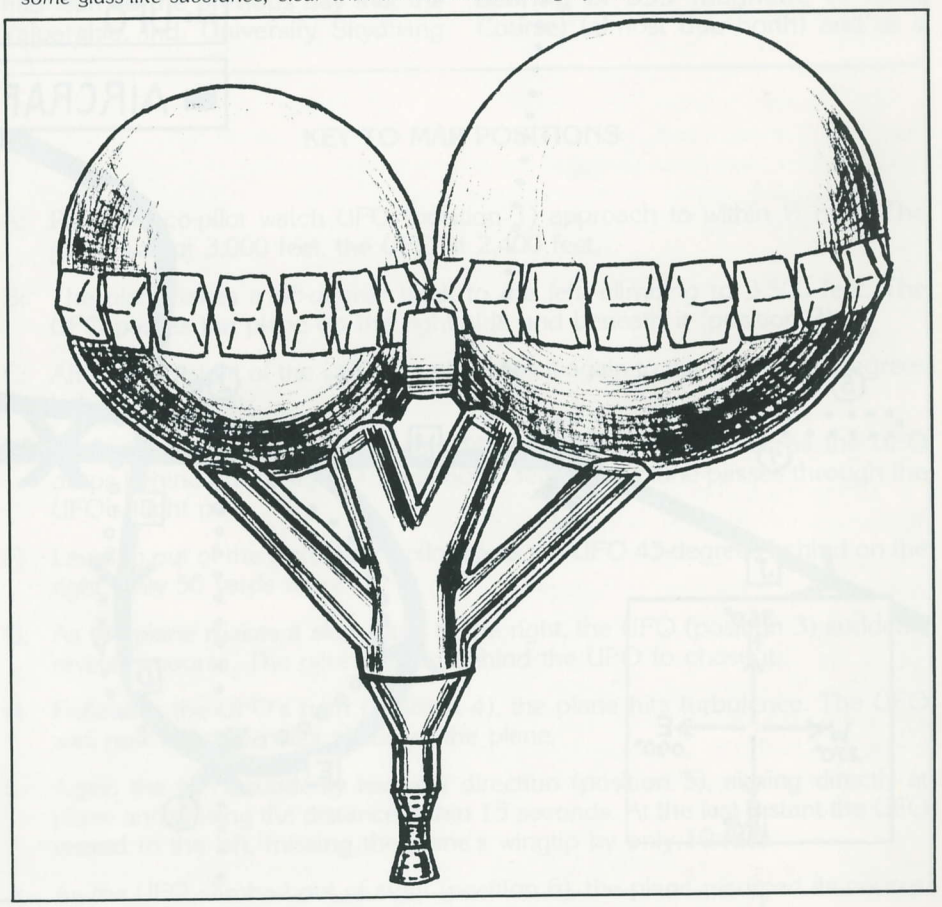
At first it was estimated that the overall height of the object was only 7 feet, width 6 feet, but later considerations revised this considerably upward. Considerable uncertainty was introduced by the difficulty of estimating sizes of unfamiliar objects without an aerial reference point.

Now, as the UFO slowed to stay inside their curve, the two domes began to gyrate in a peculiar manner, best described as a twisting motion akin to holding two tennis balls, one in each hand, and rotating one ball away from you, and the other in the opposite sense (while still touching them together), and then reversing the directions.

Both pilots now looked momentarily away. ("I had to fly the plane, and my father just wasn't looking." [Ed note: I find it hard to believe that his attention wouldn't have been completely riveted on this strange object the entire time.]. The UFO now, without any sort of transition, instantly reversed course, (3) heading back on a mirror-image bearing of 270°, remaining at its level of 1,800 feet at a speed of 140 knots, in a period of "not more than two seconds." There was no warning of this move; the object was with them one second, speeding directly away the next.

Seeing this, the pilot completed his turn to the right, standing the plane on its wing-tip and hauling it around sharply to curve back directly behind the UFO in a pursuit position (G), and

The UFO, Davis said, looked like two geodesic domes connected together with a nozzle by four tubes. It appeared to be about 7 feet in height, 6 feet across, with one dome 20 per cent larger than the other. The domes were silver-blue, encircled by a ring of geodesic panels made out of some glass-like substance, clear with an iridescent blue-grey sheen.



about a mile to the object's rear. The moment they fell in directly behind, they again encountered the same heavy turbulence as before (X-2). This time the turbulence continued for the length of the pursuit. Despite this, Davis "fire-walled" the throttle, up to the aircraft's maximum cruise speed in level flight, 140 knots. Nevertheless, the object began to pull directly away from them (H-4), gradually building to between 50 and 100 mph, separation speed, and drawing almost 5 miles away (5). The fact that the object could still be seen at that distance led to the upward revision of its size estimate.

After three or four minutes of uselessly wasting fuel, and not wanting to damage his motor, the pilot was just about to give up the chase when, suddenly, despite the distance, both observers saw the dome-spheres go into their peculiar rotation again.

Almost instantly the object reversed course once again (5), picking up speed fast by this time, and giving them only enough time to realize that it had reversed course, where it was headed, and enough time to wonder "if this was it." Then, at the last possible moment, the object flicked across their nose (I), veering to its left and missing the aircraft's right wing tip by no more than 10 feet. At the instant that it passed, the vortex hit them so hard (X-4) that the plane's airframe groaned in protest, and the altimeter "went wacky."

The Davis' sat frozen for a moment, watching the UFO as it continued to curve to the left, back on what appeared to be its original heading of 355°, still accelerating, and eventually beginning to climb, until it finally disappeared (6) into the distant haze. At no time during the encounter had the UFO shown any sort of exhaust trail.

Thoroughly chastened, both men decided enough was enough, and set their course (J) to the original 240° to their destination, now within visual range. Still rather shaken, they unfortunately did not remember to call around to ascertain whether anyone also had viewed their brief episode, nor to see whether they were within anyone's radar coverage. [Ed. note: We need a psychologist's input here. Is it possible to be so utterly shaken by an event that one omits doing the obvious, intelligent thing, in this case to "get on the air" immediately to anyone listening, including the control tower, to obtain corroboration and vital information about so unusual an event?]

We are deeply indebted to Mr. Remaley for this detailed interview and for the excellent drawings of the trajectories of the two craft. And once again, we ask our readers for any suggestions they might have on whether this extraordinary event might have a rational explanation, if the facts are as stated in the Davis-Remaley interview. □

Report from Argentina

(Continued from Page 3)

Spanish gentleman, Julio F. and his dog Mus, in the province of Sorio, Spain.

The gist of Ribera's ideas is that we are facing a super-mechanics, created by a superior technology, making it impossible for us to fit the observed UFO phenomena into the framework of present-day science. He also stressed the number of times a UFO "flap" coincided with a close approach of Mars to the earth, a fact which cannot be denied, although there have been close approaches without "flaps."

THE REALITY OF THE MEN IN BLACK: Carlos del Frade

An analysis of 23 UFO related cases, of which six ended tragically. Unfortunately we do not have a transcript of this paper and will withhold further comment until we do.

PRESENTATION BY DR. VIRGILIO SANCHEZ OJECO

We have no formal title for this paper by Dr. Sanchez. The paper, however, dealt with an interesting case of a "contactee" he has been working with who is both deaf and dumb, thus presenting quite a problem in communication. Dr. Sanchez is a resident of Miami, an investigator for the Center for UFO Studies, and is well known to many American ufologists. He is the author of the book "UFO Contact from Undersea," the story of the Filiberto Cardenas abduction, reportedly witnessed by several intimates.

In this paper he described how, although deaf and dumb (he is, however, a good artist) he reportedly can hear the voices of his communicators clearly in his mind. Dr. Sanchez is very interested in the contactee problem and has proposed that an international meeting of contactees and ufologists be planned in order to bring together and examine critically the "messages" of the contactee. This is, of course, what Dr. Leo Sprinkle has attempted in several meetings on a smaller scale than that proposed by Dr. Sanchez. It is hoped that the two of them will cooperate and succeed in such a worthwhile venture.

UFOs: IN SEARCH OF A DEFINITION: Fabio Zerpa

The proposed definition: "An ET artifact piloted by humanoids" is so self-defeating that comment is hardly worthwhile. Reference was made to the sighting of Oct. 31, 1981, as seen by a young woman on board a plane. As a consequence she was supposed to have suffered a time lapse and other anomalous phenomena. It is unfortunate that Mr. Zerpa was not aware that the so-called UFO of that date was simply the sighting over a wide area of

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Two Humanoids in Gallio

by Antonio Chiumiento

Two manuscripts concerning two Close Encounters in Italy were submitted to us by Antonio Chiumiento, of the Centro Ufologico Nationale [CUN] of Italy, one directly by mail and the other transmitted to us in person by Roberto Pinotti, president of CUN at the time of my visit to Italy. The first is presented here, with some editing owing to limited space, and the second is scheduled for the next issue. Mr. Chiumiento is a serious and meticulous investigator who has cautiously couched his manuscript throughout with such terms as "possible UFO event" and "object" and "supposed" and "presumed" and "in our opinion." We shall present both papers as examples of straightforward investigative reporting of a UFO event, fully aware, as Mr. Chiumiento obviously is, of the pitfalls inherent in UFO investigations and of the haunting question we all face: "Did this really happen?"

If this were the only account of a CE-III one would be sorely tempted to dismiss it as "an aberration...just one of those things," but it takes its place with hundreds of similar accounts from different parts of the world. Do we dismiss them all? That would hardly be the scientific approach. Here then is the first account.

TYPE:	CE-III
DATE:	Nov. 24, 1978
TIME:	11:45 A.M. (Weather, brisk and sunny)
DURATION:	4-5 minutes
WITNESSES:	One, plus strong possibility of a second, independent witness.
PLACE:	Gallio (Vicenza), Italy

It was almost noon on a sunny day in November, 1978 that Angelo D'Ambros, a 61-year-old pensioner, out alone gathering firewood in a local copse, turned as he put down a freshly cut branch and saw to his horror two "beings" with approximately human features just a few feet away from him . One was about 4 feet tall, the other about 8 inches shorter; they were suspended in the air, about a foot or more off the ground. They were extremely thin and had a yellowish skin so stretched over their bones that some big veins were clearly visible on the creature closest to him. Their heads were pear-like, smooth and bald, and at the sides were enormous ears which rose vertically and ended in points. Their eyes were large and white, sunken into the face and without eyelids. They had very marked noses extending down to the lower lip of a sizeable mouth from which extended two "tusks."

From just below the knees to the neck and covering the arms to the wrists, the creatures wore very tight-fitting dark "coveralls." Only the hands and the rest of the legs and feet were uncovered. Hands and feet, of considerable dimension, were out of proportion to the rest of the body; they had very long fingers and toes with rather long nails.

At first, the two beings were side by side. But almost immediately the smaller one began to move continuously back and forth, from right to left, in very quick jerks without moving his long feet, as if he were sliding on an invisible surface. His motion caused a stir in the air and vegetation rustled as the tips of his ears touched the lower branches of nearby trees.

Trying to master his terror, which was literally "freezing his blood," he called for help at the top of his voice. He nonetheless found strength to ask them again and again who they were and what they wanted of him. But this was all useless; from the mouth of the shorter creature came only incomprehensible grumblings.

The taller "being," who had remained in one position about one meter away from Antonio, now reached one of his long hands to take away his pruning knife. [This is a farm implement consisting of a hooked cutting blade (see Fig. 2) fixed to a solid handle; called a "cortelaso"]. The creature grabbed the knife by its dull side and there ensued a struggle, Antonio, realizing that the knife was his only instrument of defense in the event the two "visitors" proved truly hostile, held the handle firmly. The "being" tried harder, grasping the blade lower down (at this time Mr. D'Ambros thought he felt a light electric shock).

Now the being made a third attempt, using both hands this time, grasping the knife still further down by the non-cutting edge. The creature showed remarkable strength, but this was matched by Mr. D'Ambros, spurred by his despair when his cries for help were unanswered. This time he felt a very clear, stronger electric shock. Antonio's terror now changed to fury; grasping a large branch he had previously cut down, he aimed a blow at the intruders but before he could deliver it, they quickly took flight.

Recovering his calm, and moved by an irresistible curiosity about the origin of these two "unhuman beings" of similar features except for height, D'Ambros began to pursue them, running as fast as possible towards the mule-track on which they made their get-away. They had disappeared around a bend in the track but he followed them and saw them make for what was presumably the craft they had arrived in. It was the "traditional flying saucer," resting, in a clearing about 100 feet away, on four landing gears which appeared rather widely separated and had appreciable landing pods.

The summit of the discoidal craft was surmounted by a small dome. The UFO itself was of a bright red color in its upper part, including the dome, blue in its lower part, and the two parts were separated by a white median band. The four landing gears were of an aluminum-grey color. In size it was

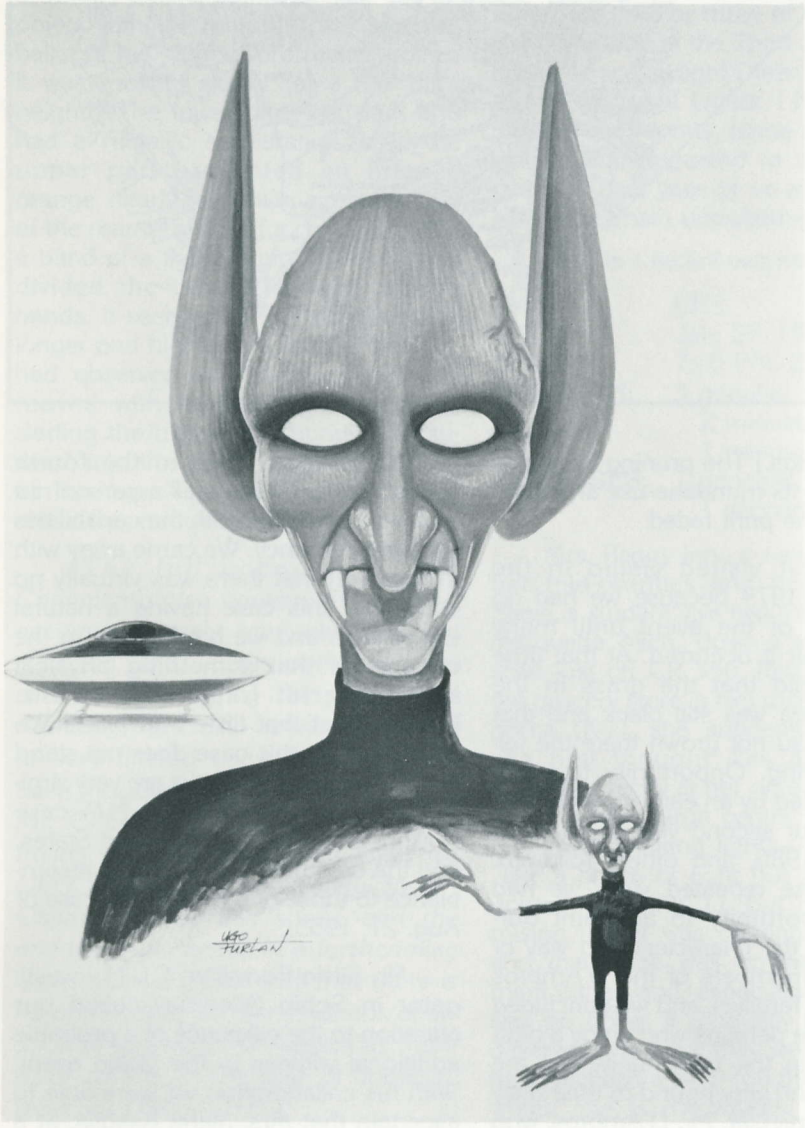
about 15 feet long and, minus the legs, and six or seven feet high.

The witness got there just in time to see one of the long hands reaching from the inside to close a kind of trap door, and that was the last he saw of the creatures. After a few seconds, the craft took off horizontally at a dizzying speed in absolute silence and disappeared from sight behind high fir trees.

Mr. D'Ambros returned home immediately, confided in no one, but brooded so much over the strange encounter that he passed up lunch. Finally, he decided to talk about the "event" with his son-in-law, Luciano Munari, a school caretaker. The next day, they went to the clearing in question and found a nearly circular area about 12 feet in diameter in which the grass appeared to be black (as if it had been oiled, rather than burnt), pressed and whirled in a counter-clockwise direction. Their hands remained completely clean when they touched the grass. Mr. D'Ambros discovered two "U"-like traces about 20 centimeters long and three wide and deep. Mr. Munari attributed the fact that they were unable to find marks which should have been left by the other two legs to the presence of some stones. Further confirmation that a landing took place, according to Mr. Munari, was the finding of some bushes at the site of the landing that had been uprooted, presumably associated with the take-off of the craft.

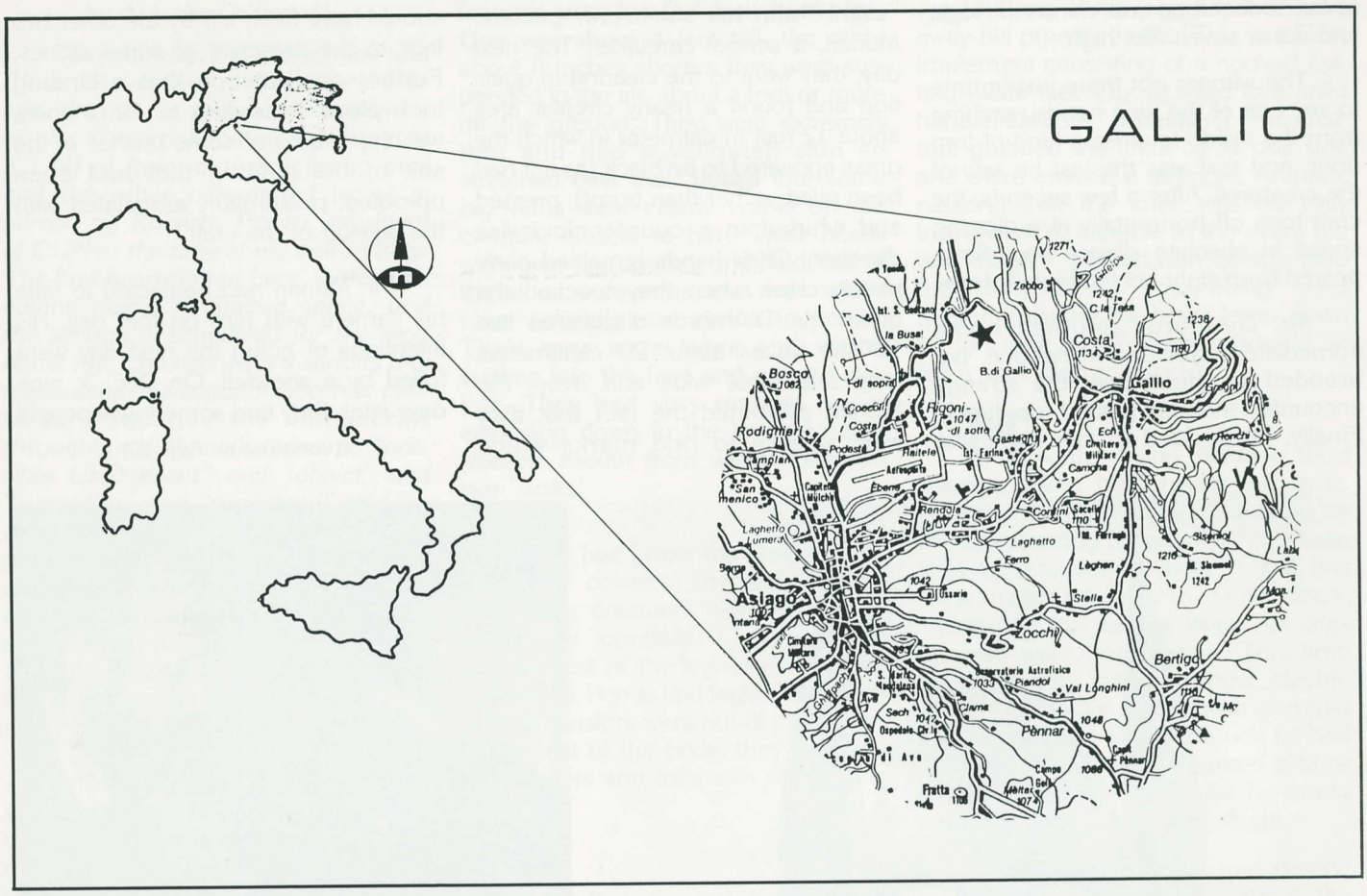
Mr. Munari had neglected to take his camera with him on that day. His intentions of going the next day were foiled by a snowfall. On Dec. 3, nine days later, they and some townspeople

(Continued on Page 10)



Angelo D'Ambros, left, shows Antonio Chiumiento the pruning knife one of the humanoids tried to take away from him during the encounter.

The encircled landing craft pod marks are similar to those of the Socorro, N.M. case on April 24, 1964.



attempted to locate the markings by shoveling the snow away from the remembered spot. Black and white photos showed nothing, so they tried again the next day, this time with color film, encircling the marks with yellow paper. The photographs do show evidence of distinctive marks but they are far from conclusive and will not be reproduced here for that reason.

A golden opportunity to obtain a fingerprint of an alien was apparently lost when, discovering that a red print had been left on the pruning knife, the laboratory to which it was taken for analysis demanded a large sum of money to undertake what would have been a relatively simple matter. The knife was brought back to Gallio but no one thought to take a photograph of the print. [Ed note: Just another example for the need of a professional and international body to investigate UFO sightings.] The pruning knife was put back to its mundane use and soon thereafter the print faded.

We first visited Gallio in the autumn of 1979 because we had no knowledge of the event until many months after it occurred. At that time we were told that the grass in the "landing area"was still black and that the grass had not grown there the following Spring. Opportunity to verify this was foiled by an early snowfall that autumn. Our second visit occurred in February, 1980, and others followed. During these repeated visits we had ample opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the characters and way of life of the members of the D'Ambros and Munari families, and we concluded that they are persons who enjoy a high reputation in the community but are very plain and very bound to their daily tasks. In particular, Mr. D'Ambros, who attended school only to the fourth grade, appeared to us as a person not endowed by nature with the capabilities for flights of fancy. We came away with the opinion that there was virtually no chance of this case having a natural explanation and we have come to the conclusion that something physical and material happened to Mr. D'Ambros at that time and place. We point out that this case does not stand alone. The landing marks are very similar to those of the Socorro, N.M. case of April 24, 1964, in the United States, and the creatures bear a strong resemblance to those of the Kelly, Ky. case of Aug. 21, 1955.

Mr. Silvio Formilan, C.U.N. investigator in Schio (Vicenza) called our attention to the existence of a probable additional witness to the Gallio event. With his collaboration we were able to ascertain that Mrs. Maria Ksausa, at a

Gallio (Vincenza) is in the northeast corner of Italy. The CE-III encounter occured Nov. 24, 1978, at 11:45 a.m. in clear, sunny weather.

quarter past twelve [thus one-half hour later than the D'Ambros sighting] on that same day, on her way from the hospital where she is a pharmaceutical assistant, observed in the clear sky an object with the features of a big oval balloon, but without protruding points. It was moving slowly "at a half hill's height." The lower part was dark and had a metallic appearance while the upper part presented an intense orange, nearly red, color, similar to that of the rear reflector of a car. It also had a band of a lighter color which clearly divided the two differently colored bands. It seemed to the witness to be longer and higher than helicopters she had observed on other occasions. It moved without noise, continuously skirting the hills and continuing northward, into the valley of Santa Caterina of Lusiana. The observation lasted about five minutes.

[The full account by Mr. Chiumiento also contained very brief accounts, largely from newsclips, of reported UFO events in that general area of Italy during the period surrounding the Gallio event. These are of very limited value and have not been included here. The full report by Mr. Chiumiento, in both English and Italian, is available at the Center for UFO Studies. We are grateful to Mr. Chiumiento for this study, and the one to be presented in a forthcoming issue, but we regret only that there is no opportunity for personal corroboration of foreign UFO reports as there is, of course, in the case of domestic reported UFO events.] □

The Marquette Pentagon

Kenneth C. Schellhase

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan continues to be a hot area for UFO reports in the United States [Ed. note: It is often a question of whether a given area is "hot" or whether it is fortunate in having an active and well known ufologist in the area who is alert to such activity and to whom people turn just because he is well known in the area. There can be no doubt, however, that there has been significant UFO activity in the Upper Peninsula in the past two years or more.] Reports of sightings over the past six years have yielded thirty Close Encounters of the First Kind, two or three of the Second Kind, and one of the Third Kind, plus a dozen or so Daylight Discs and a great many Nocturnal Lights. I have investigated these reports, some accounts of which have appeared in this Journal over the past year or so although the majority remain unpublished.

Here is a recent example of a CE-I:

TYPE:	CE-I
DATE:	Jan. 27, 1983
TIME:	7:00 P.M. EST
DURATION:	5 minutes + 2 minutes + 1 minute
WITNESSES:	1 principal, 1 secondary

Mrs. Peggy lery, a new mother in her mid-twenties and her husband, Steve, a student, live two miles north of Marquette, Mich., down a winding side road just off CR 550. Returning from the grocery store, a two mile drive from home (X-1), she suddenly saw what she first thought was an airplane coming directly at her on a crash landing course: a large central white light, two small flanking lights—the largest "like a beam of light but not shining down." (Drawing 1). But quickly surmising that it was coming no closer, and that there was no lateral movement either, and, especially, that there was no noise, it gradually but quickly dawned on her that they were extraordinary, perhaps a UFO (on the subject of which she is moderately informed). The total spread of lights appeared as the size of a dime at 8 inches. They appeared over a rack of a dozen power lines (from a power plant 1½ miles away) and over a tree-covered bluff 2/3-mile away.

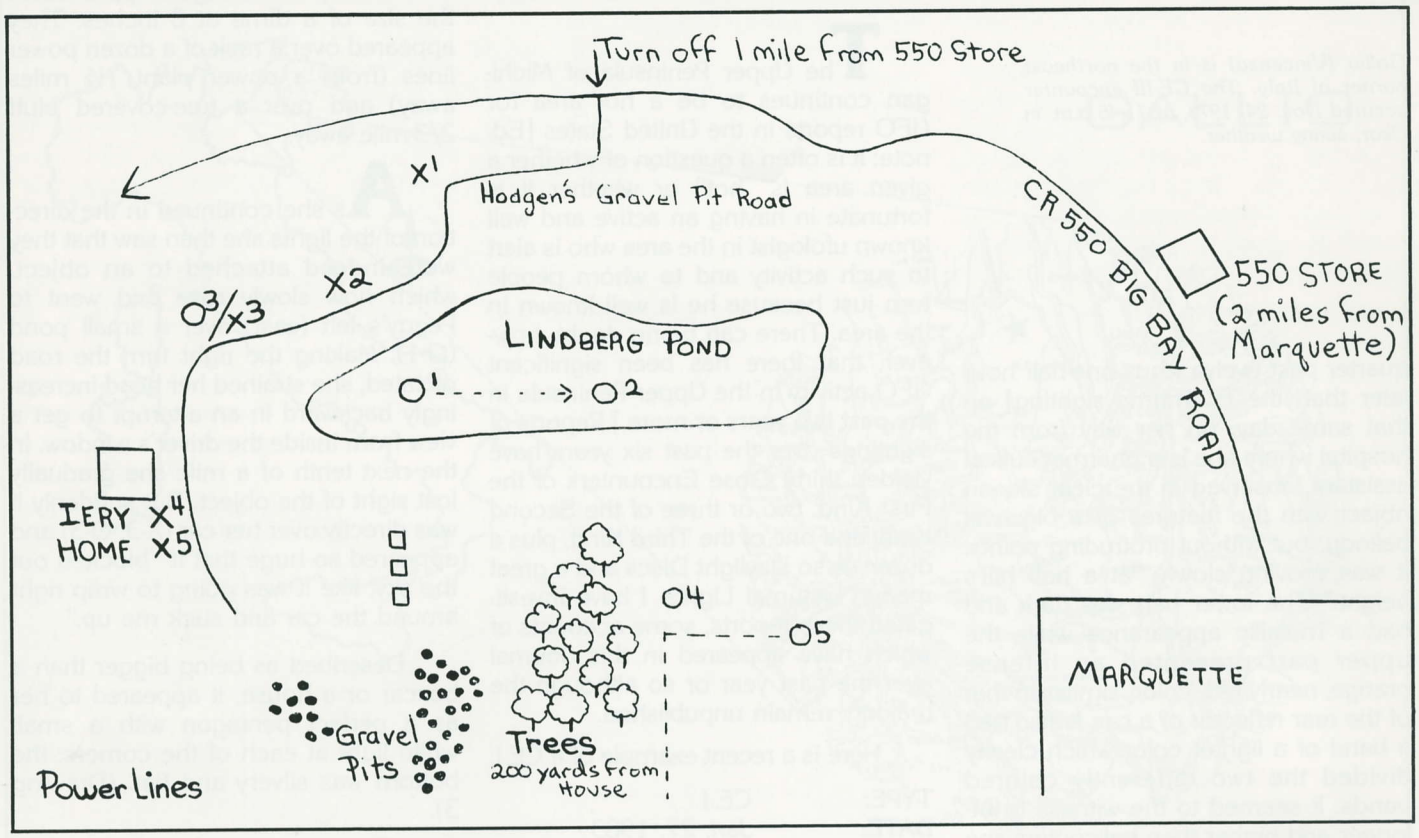
As she continued in the direction of the lights she then saw that they were indeed attached to an object, which now slowly rose and went to Peggy's left (east) over a small pond (O-1). Making the right turn the road dictated, she strained her head increasingly backward in an attempt to get a view from inside the driver's window. In the next tenth of a mile she gradually lost sight of the object. But suddenly it was directly over her car (X-3, O-3) and appeared so huge that it "blocked out the sky, like it was going to wrap right around the car and suck me up."

Described as being bigger than a boxcar or a house, it appeared to her as a perfect pentagon with a small white light at each of the corners; the bottom was silvery and flat. (Drawing 3).

She remembered all the UFO movies and "my mind went crazy." She stepped on the gas and drove the final tenth of a mile home crying, screaming, and cursing. She related how embarrassed she was to think later of all the bad language she discovered she had in her. Steve, who was just sitting down at exactly 7:00 p.m. to take a self-timed test, heard his wife driving up to the house screaming (the car is old and loud and the car windows were up yet he still heard her). Steve ran out the door as Peggy ran up to him shouting about the UFO. Steve tried to calm her down insisting it must have been an airplane.

But then Peggy and Steve both saw four lights (X-4, O-4), but not an object itself (still mainly white but Steve recalls some red and green also) with no hint as to any shape. (The four white lights of Drawing 4 compare indirectly with those of Drawing 1. The

(Continued on Page 12)



KEY TO MAP POSITIONS

X-1: Peggy first sees UFO.

X-2: Peggy loses sight of UFO as she drives W/SW and the UFO continues E.

X-3: UFO is directly over Peggy.

X-4: Peggy and Steve watch UFO recede.

X-5: Peggy and Steve watch as UFO approaches, turns quickly S., then W. over the power lines.

O-1: UFO, at about 10-degrees elevation over the pond, lifts up and moves E. to O-2 between 7:00-7:01 p.m.

O-3: The UFO is directly over Peggy's car.

O-4: Stationary between 7:02-7:05, the UFO recedes slowly.

O-5: UFO approaches from E., veers S., then W. between 7:10-7:12 p.m.

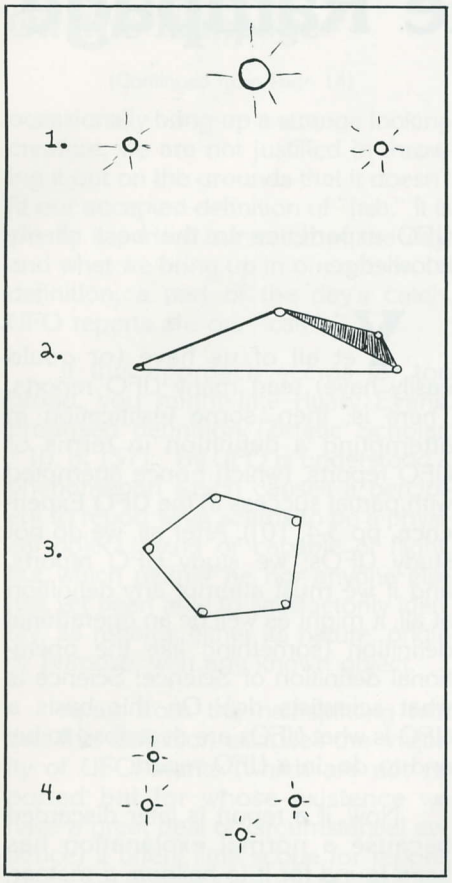
angular size in each case was estimated as that of a dime at ten inches; the elevation above the horizon was only 5 degrees, just over a tree line some distance away, azimuth 125°. At this moment both witnesses may have been observing the star Sirius, altitude 6°, azimuth 122° at that time.)

They watched it for a few minutes (Steve now admitting that "it was definitely no airplane") until it receded out of sight beyond the trees. Immediately thereafter (between 7:05 and 7:10) Peggy talked to her father by phone, telling him of their experience. Since he lives in Marquette also, he went out to drive to a high part of the town to observe it if possible. He took his daughter quite seriously because some three years earlier, and just a few miles from Marquette, both he and his wife observed and reported a "daylight disk," estimated to be some 50 feet in diameter and relatively close.

No sooner had Peggy hung up the

Report from Argentina

(Continued from Page 7)



phone than both she and Steve saw the object approach from exactly the same place it had disappeared (O-5). But this time, they reported, it veered off to the south and then turned west to speed off swiftly over the power lines located to the south of their house. This, obviously, does not fit the Sirius theory. Furthermore, the National Weather Service confirmed Peggy's statement that the weather was cloudy, with clouds at 10,000 and 25,000 feet. The two then talked over their entire experience for about an hour and they then decided to call the Michigan State Police and the Marquette Police. The latter were especially friendly and advised her to call the Air Police at the K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, about 20 miles south of Marquette.

The conversation between Peggy and the Air Police merits notice. The man said he needed landmarks because the area of Peggy's home was off his map. Peggy gave landmarks (Sugar Loaf Hill, the Tourist Park, the sand quarries, the power lines, etc.). The man then asked about how high the object was and Peggy estimated 200 feet. He said that was too low for the radar and added "in any case our radar does not go out that far (Soviet Air Force take note). He then asked her to hang on for a minute. Peggy heard him say "Blue Alert" and heard buzzers (she believed she wasn't meant to hear this because the phone was more distant or put down or as though under something). He returned and asked her more about the direction and size and height of the object. He asked her to hold on once again. Two minutes later he got back and said, "I believe you but they told me to tell you that there's a flight of B-52s coming in from the North at 1,000 feet." End of call.

Neither Peggy nor Steve nor a half dozen neighbors I checked recall any such ear-blasting event occuring that evening. In fact, they hardly heard airplanes in the area. But Peggy and Steve do recall (but no neighbor does) that they heard jets "circling around" five or six times for a few minutes each time between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m.

After calling the Air Force at Sawyer three times over a week's period, and being assured my questions concerning flights over the area would be checked, "We'll get back to you,"...I'm still waiting. □

Argentina of the Russian satellite KOSMOS 1317, as Oberg has correctly pointed out. The entire incident thus can be attributed to hysteria produced by that stimulus.

EVENTS IN LA AURORA:
Carlos Villegas and Adolfo di Lorenzo

La Aurora is a large ranch in Uruguay where many strange things have been rumored to have occurred since 1977. This paper was an extended audio-visual presentation relating the many events at La Aurora. Although the initial incident may have been related to a UFO, it seems clear that many of the later events may have had purely mundane causes; the ranch appears to be becoming a cultist center, and miraculous cures have been reported. The evidence presented in this paper was hardly convincing.

Dr. Willy Smith presented two papers, one informing the South American listeners of the methods of image enhancement as applied to purported UFO photos and the other informing them of the details of the Cash-Landrum case near Houston, Tex. Dr. Hynek likewise presented two review papers, to inform our South American friends of some of the thinking about UFOs going on north of the equator.

Irene Granchi, Brazilian ufologist well known to many American ufologists, reviewed recent Close Encounter cases in Brazil and their consequences. One case in particular involved the "duplication" of "beings" and another the purported tape recording of a "being" that contacted a young man.

The great difficulty in assessing the final credibility of some of the papers presented at the Rosario conference is our lack of knowlege of the extent and nature of the research in support of the statements and conclusions of those papers.

In a panel discussion, a very significant proposal was made and resolution passed, urging the formation of a "UFOLOGICAL WORLD ASSOCIATION." A commission was appointed to study the matter and to formulte definite plans for the establishment of such an organization. The members of the committee are: Mr. Eduardo A. Ficarotti, Mrs. Irene Granchi, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Mr. Carlos R. Jacks, Mr. Antonio Ribera and Mr. Jesus R. Rovere. □

UFO? — Semantics on the Rampage

by J. Allen Hynek

Dr. Marcello Truzzi, editor of the Zetetic Scholar, asked me some time ago to comment on Michael Martin's article in that magazine [#9], "Defining UFO." Martin spent some 2,500 words wrestling with this problem. Jenny Randles and Hilary Evans have already published their comments, both very much to the point (issue #10). Since the matter of defining the term UFO may be of interest to our readers as well, I would like to present my comments to them as well as to the readers of the Zetetic Scholar.

Martin exhibits skill as a semanticist and perhaps as a scholastic as well, but it seems to me that he never faces squarely the basic problem: How can one define something that is admittedly "Unidentified" from the start; is this really possible in a realistic sense?

The definition of something is very much a function of what is already known about it. Take "star" for example: a definition can range from "a twinkling point of light on the vault of heaven" or "luminous source of light on the night sky" to "a celestial body whose self-luminosity is produced by nuclear fusion processes." The first definition was appropriate (and still is for poets and lovers) before we knew much about the physical nature of a star, while the latter might not be very satisfactory for all purposes, especially for someone who may never have seen a star. We could, of course, try "A star is a celestial object whose surface temperature is in the range from approximately 2000° K" or, "A celestial object which is similar to the sun," or once again, "A celestial object which results from the gravitational contraction of a large mass of gas and cosmic dust, becoming self-luminous when its interior temperature and pressure becomes sufficient to initiate nuclear reactions." And those are definitions for something we know about?

Pity one who sets about to define UFO! I know; I tried two definitions in **The UFO Experience,** perhaps sufficient for the purposes thereof, but a dozen others would have been possible. However, perhaps we do need to adopt **something** so that we are not talking completely at cross purposes, but let us avoid splitting hairs to the point where any definition will resemble more a medieval theological disquisition than a pragmatic working definition.

One thing seems to have been accepted by all those who have attempted serious definitions: a working definition must not be based on an **assumed** origin of the UFO phenomenon. That could be like defining stars as "lights placed in the sky by angels after the sun goes down." So, to incorporate into the definition of UFO anything implying extra-terrestrial, extra-dimensional, purely psychological, or some even more exotic origin is non-productive, restrictive and can lead only to confusion and dead ends.

We all know what stars look like, yet note how many definitions are possible for them. To attempt a "complete" definition of stars would run to pages and would include equations of nuclear reactions, radiation transfer, etc. How much more difficult to attempt such a definition if one knew nothing about stars and had never seen one. Yet many who attempt a definition of a UFO have never had a UFO experience to the best of my knowledge.

Yet all of us have (or could easily have) read many UFO reports. There is, then, some justification in attempting a definition in terms of UFO reports, (which I once attempted with partial success in the **UFO Experience,** pp 3-4, 10]). After all, we do not study UFOs; we study UFO reports, and if we must attempt any definition at all, it might as well be an **operational** definition (something like the operational definition of Science: Science is what scientists do). On this basis a UFO is what UFOs are described to be, and to do, in a UFO report.

Now, if a report is later discarded because a normal explanation has been found for it (a balloon, a meteor, etc.) the contents of the report are no longer unidentified and hence can play no part in the composite definition of UFO which must obviously apply only to things which remain unidentified.

There are many things in life and all around us that are unidentified in one sense or another, in science, in law, in medicine, and especially in the "borderland" regions of human experience: ESP, miracles, leprechauns, astral projection, etc., although there is an extensive literature on all of these subjects. To the extent that any of these enter into the current flow of UFO reports (say, in the responsible UFO journals over the past several years) then they must be included in the operational definition of UFO.

We cannot forget that we are fishing in unknown waters. If our nets

(Continued on Page 15)

Semantics On The Rampage

(Continued from Page 14)

occasionally bring up a strange looking creature, we are not justified in throwing it out on the grounds that it doesn't fit our accepted definition of "fish." It is clearly a part of our catch of the day, and what we bring up in our nets is, by definition, a part of the day's catch. UFO reports are our "catch."

If this approach seems far too broad, you might like Hilary Evans' proposed definition (Zetetic Scholar, #10, p. 157): "By UFO is understood a phenomenon which causes a percipient to report what seems to be a physical object, flying or capable of flight, but which neither he nor anyone else has yet been able to satisfactorily identify, as regards either its nature, origin or purpose, with any known object."

Apart from the hair-splitting fact that this definition excludes the majority of UFO events (which are **not** reported but for whose existence we have a great deal of circumstantial evidence) it offers little scope for reports which emphasize bright lights and say nothing of 'objects.' Yet these are a part of the UFO phenomenon and are very frequently reported.

For myself, I find it useful to think of the UFO phenomenon as that defined by the continuous flow, from many parts of the world, of reports of objects and/or sources of luminosity, perceived in the atmosphere or on the ground, whose origin and behavior remain unidentified even after competent study.

By the way, which definition of 'star' do you prefer? □

More Letters

(Continued from Page 3)

very recent UFO activity. Otherwise, I am very happy with your current format of the IUR.

I will continue to follow your request for that inevitable encounter of the Final Kind.

S. Scott Corder, M.D.
Ottawa, Kansas

(Ed. Note:) We will attempt to produce evaluations of the most recent important cases, but, unfortunately, it takes time and careful inquiry to produce information of value for publication. We will do the best we can with our limited resources. Better financial resources will help bring it about. Also, some of the most important cases sometimes take months or years to surface and come to our attention for investigation. We hope that better public understanding of the importance of this subject will encourage prompt reporting of future important cases.)

Dear Dr. Hynek:

In your editorial which appeared in the March/April issue of the IUR, you requested reader opinion regarding a possible change in content policy. You asked the question as to whether some UFO case documentation be sacrificed in favor of more book reviews, theories, perspectives, etc.

In my view, the answer is a most emphatic "no." Detailed case material involving first-hand, in-depth investigation is the very backbone of IUR, as it is with all serious UFO journals. It must be remembered that IUR is published only bi-monthly and is relatively thin. To devote more space to these other matters is a luxury IUR simply cannot engage in. As it is, IUR must obviously

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More Letters

publish only a minority of the better-documented reports that it has at its disposal. Of course, IUR should also include matters of relavent interest, such as book reviews, discussions of specialized publications, such as Mark Rodeghier's review of Len Stringfield's most recent Crash Retrieval Monogram. Your editorial is also a perfect vehicle for discussion of theories, etc., but under present circumstances to initiate a major shift in content policy would not enhance IUR's value as an informative journal.

Herbert S. Taylor
Oceanside, New York

Dr. Hynek:

I saw this (UFO) during the forties, but I don't remember the exact date. We lived in Chicago and my parents lived on a farm nine miles northeast of Kendallville and twenty-eight miles north of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

On a Saturday, we went out to visit. Just after dark, at about 9:30 or 10 PM, my wife and I and my father and mother were out looking over the field next to the house. It was a 40-acre field of wheat, ripe golden yellow and covered with millions of fireflies. Now, fireflies were nothing new to us, but none of us had ever seen so many in one place. It was like bright electric lights shining on the whole field, but at that time they didn't have any electricity.

My wife and mother went into the house and my father and I went around to the front yard. He was telling me about his roof on the house which he had just repaired. It is one of those big old farm houses, with 14 rooms, not counting the small ones. There was no moon. No wind. No noise out there in the country. You could hear a cricket for two blocks.

As we were standing in the front yard, all at once something big just floated right over us and the house. Now, this thing more than covered the whole house and just floated over at about 25 miles per hour, or less. No noise. No smell. I don't think it was more than 50 feet above the house.

We saw no lights, but we were under it, so there could have been lights on the front or sides. It was going west, so I went to the west end of the house and I could see it was flat and round, not like a cigar. One place in the back was an opening like a furnace door with (what looked like a) dead flame, colored, but no blast, at all.

I have been a mechanic all my life, working on cars and deisel locomotives, so I would have noticed any motor noise. I have not seen anything like it since, but I will never forget that... something that big just floating along.

Vine D. Gunsaullus
Fox Lake, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek:

You requested reader feedback regarding the content of IUR. I can give only my personal opinion: that what your journal does best is to give us solid, thoroughly-documented cases which have been properly investigated and to set them in some kind of perspective, e.g., by comparing a set of cases on a given theme as Sigismund does in Volume 8, No. 2, and Rodeghier had done in previous issues.

It is in providing this solid base that your journal best serves Ufology and while, of course, I would welcome speculative and review articles, as well, I would be very sorry to see such material replace your case histories. There are other journals which do the armchair philosopher bit...some better than others...but I know of no journal which is currently reporting cases as well as IUR.

Hilary Evans
London, England □

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